

Series I  
Correspondence,  
1932-1973

Box 6, Folder 9

May 22, 1952 -  
December 31, 1952

0232

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R. O. T. C., MILITARY SCHOOLS

22 May 1952  
Letter #K-347

Commodore R. W. Bates  
Naval War College  
Newport, R. I.

Sir:

Today we received a letter from Mr. M. A. Lalli of the Naval War College tailor shop, advising us that he received Commander shoulder marks instead of the Commodore shoulder marks he originally ordered.

Promptly upon receipt of Mr. Lalli's letter, the writer investigated this matter and found that Mr. Lalli did specify Commodore shoulder marks in his order, and due to an error in our stockroom, we inadvertently shipped Commander shoulder marks. Needless to say, we are very much embarrassed concerning this error, and we realize that excuses do not repair the damage.

Mr. Lalli requested that we rush his order with all possible speed, and in an eager effort to be of service one of our new employees made the error referred to above.

We are extremely sorry that this mistake occurred and have taken steps to prevent a similar recurrence in the future. Please rest assured that it was not intentional, which I am certain you realize, for it has been our privilege to serve the Navy for the past 84 years.

Very respectfully,

N. S. MEYER, INC.

  
By: P. P. GOODMAN

PPG:js

INSIGNIA SPECIALISTS SINCE 1868

0233

APPEAL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.  
130 CEDAR STREET  
NEW YORK 6, N. Y.

PAULUS P. POWELL  
VICE PRESIDENT

May 24, 1952.

Dear Rafe,

One day this week I was discussing with Admiral Halsey some aspects of the Battle of Leyte. His article on the subject in the May issue of the Naval Institute sheds further light on the situation as he saw it at the time. The principal point that he makes is that the command organization was wrong. Admiral Halsey is merely restating what he said when he came to Lake Sentani (McArthur's headquarters) just before he sailed for the initial operations leading up to the landing in Leyte Gulf. Wilkinson and Kinkaid also were not satisfied with it ~~either~~, but the Joint Chiefs apparently thought it was satisfactory.

In our conversation, we got on to the question of how much air search was done by Kinkaid's forces on the morning of October 25th. I suppose that you have analyzed this thoroughly, and I wish that you would tell me.

I had a hand in getting Wagner up with about 50 patrol planes attached directly to Kinkaid, because we mistrusted Kenney, and did not believe that he would carry <sup>in</sup> a manner satisfactory to us the scouting tasks assigned to him. I know that Wagner performed a most important service on the 24th., and it was from him that we learned that the Northern Force had not been turned back by Halsey's air attacks. But I do not know what he did on the morning of the 25th. nor do I know <sup>what</sup> ~~scouting~~ Ziggy Sprague did before he found himself under fire.

My aide, who was a beach observer, and was still on Ziggy's flagship told me that the ship did not go to action stations until after splashes were dropping close aboard. I kept the TBS record of some of what was said and passed as battle orders, and I assure you it does no credit to the originator.

With the assistance of Captain Taylor, I was running the air support for the troops. At a conference on board Kinkaid's flagship at about 1700, Oct 24th.

0 2 3 4

APPEAL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.  
130 CEDAR STREET  
NEW YORK 6, N. Y.

PAULUS P. POWELL  
VICE PRESIDENT

we prepared a despatch relieving the CVEs of all duties in connection with troop support, and warning them to be ready for action at early dawn against enemy ships. I have in my files a note that I made at the time saying that I suggested to Tom that he ought to tell Ziggy what to do. I remember that Tom was a little indignant at me for intimating that he would not know how to handle the situation without any specific instructions.

The question of delayed communication between Kinkaid and Halsey must be well analyzed, but Admiral Halsey did not appear to understand the reason. I told him at least a part of it some time ago.

The next time you come to New York please let me know.

Sincerely,

P.S.

Rear Admiral  
R. W. Bates, (Ret)  
Naval War College  
Newport, R.I.

0235



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDANT'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON

13 June 1952

Dear Rafe:

It was very kind of you to take me to dinner at the Clambake Club on Wednesday. I enjoyed the evening immensely and the lobster dinner was delicious. It was also a pleasure to renew our former friendship and to talk over our war experiences. Be sure and give me a call when you are in Washington.

With many thanks for your gracious hospitality, believe me to be

Most sincerely,

LEMUEL C. SHEPHERD, JR.

Rear Admiral Richard W. Bates, USN (Ret)  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0236



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
WEST POINT, NEW YORK

19 June 1952

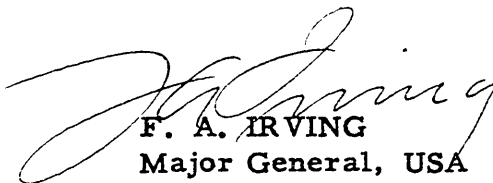
Dear Commodore Bates:

Your letter informing me of your enjoyment of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee was greatly appreciated. On behalf of the staff and faculty of the United States Military Academy, I want to thank you for having been with us on 20 May, 1952. A very large share of the success of the Jubilee celebration must be attributed to the fact that so many distinguished individuals, such as yourself, were present on this occasion.

I hope that you will find it possible to visit West Point again in the future and observe the Academy under more favorable weather conditions.

Under separate cover, I am forwarding to you a copy of Colonel R. Ernest Dupuy's book, Men of West Point, as a memento of your visit.

Sincerely,

  
F. A. IRVING  
Major General, USA  
Superintendent

Commodore R. W. Bates  
U. S. Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0237

Ben Hilliard O'Connor  
510 South Spring Street  
Los Angeles 13, California

June 21, 1952

My dear Commodore:

I wish to thank you for your many courtesies and your assistance in making my attendance at the Global Strategy Discussions most pleasant. I shall long cherish the recollection of both the serious and the social aspects of the all too short tour in Newport. I also regret that the heavy schedule prevented further discussion of the work you are doing as I find this a subject of intense interest. I trust, however, that from time to time your work may be made available and I am looking forward to reading at least some of your studies.

I note from some of the correspondence awaiting me on my return that James Paige has apparently returned from his European trip, but I have not been in contact with him. At the first opportunity I shall call on him and tell him of meeting you and of your interest in the Bohemian Club as I am sure he will be greatly interested.

Again may I express my appreciation of all your courtesies and hope that I will have a visit with you in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ben Hilliard O'Connor".

Commodore Richard W. Bates  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0238

COMMANDER DESTROYER FORCE  
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET

1 July 1952

Dear Rafe,

I am returning, herewith, the European News Letter No. 9 which you gave me last night and which I did not have opportunity to read until this morning. Thanks very much for letting me see it.

The possibility of Taft and Eisenhower collaborating is an interesting one and I hope works out. I certainly agree with the author in the last sentence of paragraph 2.

I checked on the membership of the selection board upon my return to the ship and found that the names we gave you last night were correct.

Best regards.



CHARLES WELLBORN, JR.  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Naval War College  
Newport, R. I.

0239





# UNITED STATES P.&I. AGENCY, INC.

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CABLE ADDRESS: "USPIAGE"

July 7, 1952.

Commodore R. W. Bates, U. S. Navy (Ret.),  
United States Naval War College,  
Newport, R.I.

Dear Commodore Bates:

I have wanted to write you ever since the completion of my training duty at the War College but somehow time has not permitted.

It was a very great pleasure to meet you and to be the beneficiary of the excellent planning, under your direction, at the Naval War College. Your competent leadership has done much to inspire the entire staff, I know. We Reserve Officers were much inspired as you well know.

During the weekend following the completion of my duty at the War College, I had the pleasure of making the voyage aboard the new SS UNITED STATES from Newport News to New York with Admirals Fechteler and Du Bose. I told them much about your good work at the War College - only I said "MOST OUTSTANDING" etc., etc.

If you should ever get down this way please advise as I would like to have you as my luncheon and/or dinner guest.

I miss the evening sessions at the "Reading Room". Please remember me to all.

With kind personal regards and good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Edw. C. Holden, Jr.*  
Edw. C. Holden, Jr.  
Vice President.

0240

J. JOSEPH SULLIVAN

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
ONE ELEVEN SUTTER STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE YUKON 6-5131

August 8, 1952

Admiral Richard Bates, USN  
Reading Room  
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Admiral Bates:

Consider yourself castigated for not having called the undersigned when you were in San Francisco.

I just talked to your brother, the doctor, who spent fifteen minutes attempting to justify the reasons why you did not call when you were here.

Since 1945 I have been your guest at the Bohemian Club for luncheon during the month of July. On the 31st day of July, I commenced making inquiries about you; and it is only today I discovered that you had returned to Newport. Of course, had I been on the beam, I would have called Susan Smith of the Examiner, who, for reasons best known to herself, considers you the most eligible bachelor in the United States of America.

At any rate, you are castigated.

Regards.

Sincerely,

  
J. JOSEPH SULLIVAN

JJS:tt

0241

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
MARITIME ADMINISTRATION  
AND REFER TO FILE NO.

16 August 1952

Dear Rafe:

Replying to your letter of 14 August regarding an article on a scheme for filtering sea water to convert it to fresh water, I have no knowledge of the process whatever. All I can say is that if Professor Gilliland, who is the Acting Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, of M. I. T., is connected with it, it has the ablest kind of a chemical engineer working on it. I know nothing of a company named Ionics, Inc. to which you refer.

Actually, I am only a prospective Dean of Engineering since it has not yet been possible for me to turn over the responsibility of my present job in the Federal Maritime Board and get free to return to M. I. T.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely,



E. L. Cochrane  
Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)  
Maritime Administrator

Commodore R. W. Bates  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0242



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO

American Embassy, Ankara  
August 19, 1952

Dear Ray:

After two years in Turkey Helen and I are returning to the States. During my life here I seem to have been completely negligent in attending to any personal correspondence. Nevertheless I do not want to leave this post without sending a word to you to mention that we have often spoken of you and we have never failed to recall how kind and friendly you were to us in Newport. Now that we are returning I am looking forward to a chance to drop down to the Naval War College to say hello to various friends who will I hope still be there and you will most certainly be one of them.

Turkey has proven to be a most interesting assignment and we shall leave it with much regret for we have been so much impressed by the spirit, courage and friendliness of the people of a fine nation.

I hope that during these last two years you have been continuing to enjoy your most interesting research work and I am sure that it has gone extremely well. Helen and I send our kindest greetings and all our best wishes and hope that we may see you soon to express again how much we appreciated your friendliness to us when we lived in Newport.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald Keith

Commodore Richard W. Bates, USN,  
Naval War College,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

0243

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL  
WASHINGTON

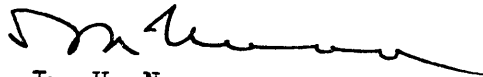
August 20, 1952

Dear Commodore,

Thank you very much for your letter of August 18 regarding the performance of duty by Commander George J. Ledger. It is most pleasant to receive information of a commendatory sort about any of the officers assigned here and I do appreciate your taking the trouble to advise me. Your favorable remarks will be, of course, reflected in his next report of fitness.

Thank you again for your letter. With best regards, I am

Cordially yours,



Ira H. Nunn

COMO R. W. Bates, USN (Ret)  
Naval War College  
Newport, R. I.

0244

August 23-52

Admiral Bates:

I suppose you would be all over me in drafting this letter, being as slow as I am but I have only one letter writing speed & that is slow.

We left Newport 6<sup>th</sup> of June & dropped the side off in New York with this grandmother & proceeded on to Norfolk where we arrived at the height of a torrid heat wave, you can imagine our feelings in trying to locate quarters, fortunately we had a shipmates house to use as headquarters while searching. We finally located a 2 bedroom apt at \$104. a month, you can understand that I couldn't keep milk & Beer in the ice box & pay that kind of rent—needless to say my beer rations have been quite short. Well is we are now located in a new housing development at \$65. & we are very contented in a nice cool 2 bedroom apt however my beer rations are still short as the ice box is too small to hold milk & Beer.

The ship's crew are billeted here at NOB Norfolk until the ship completes her conversions, to the Oribany class CV, at Newport News under civilians supervision.

0245

"We are scheduled to put her in commission the 19<sup>th</sup> of Sept at Portsmouth, of course there may be more delays.

The Capt name is Mondorff-Exec Cdr Guest-Nav Cdr F.C. Wiseman who reported aboard the 14<sup>th</sup>; the Nav that was slated to report aboard was transferred to the Oiskany to replace the Nav there who committed an attempted suicide.

The ship is constructed to carry a three star flag, who it will be I don't know.

I have been aboard the ship once & I think she is going to be OK if we have the right kind of officers & mess. The Nav & I are going over again next week.

Our assistant Nav (2 months out of the Academy) has a strong desire of becoming a submariner & knowing that I am interested in submarines showed me a few clippings he took out of his home town paper one of which I am forwarding on to you the value of which I note indicates the boys in the field & the brass back in the US were doing a little battling & also confirms the implications of Adm Fifer's letter to you, too you may be able to extract a lot of information from this Cdr E.L. Beach.

0246

Outside of the normal routine  
 & of course the above there is not much more  
 done, my family & I are making out OK &  
 are all well.

I trust, your book, as it must be,  
 is coming along OK. I hope this letter finds  
 you in the best of health & that you are not  
 working too hard likewise I do not want to  
 add to your work load & therefore I do not  
 expect an answer to this letter altho if I  
 can be of assistance at any time my address,  
 of course, is the Lake Champlain % P.M. N.Y. N.Y.

I would like to take this opportunity  
 again to thank you for all you have done for  
 me & to wish you the very best of luck.

I Remain's

Very Respectfully  
 Stout

0247



UNITED STATES NAVAL INSTITUTE  
September 10, 1952

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Naval War College  
Newport, R. I.

Dear Rafe:

We have received your interesting letter of September 5th with the enclosed address by Admiral Conolly, and both Commander Taussig (our secretary-treasurer) and I think that it is splendid and that it would make a grand article for the Proceedings.

There has been a long-standing rule here, originally established for very sound reasons, against printing verbatim addresses or speeches as articles in the Proceedings. However, you say Admiral Conolly would be willing to amplify the article somewhat; ~~by~~ so doing it would be easy enough to change the few sentences that identify it as an address, instead of a planned article. ms

The principles of war are taught here in the Naval History course and have often been treated in articles here and elsewhere, but Admiral Conolly's treatment is the first one I have seen emphasizing them from the naval standpoint. In addition, his treatment is an up-to-date one which reassesses them in the light of operations of the last war. Also he illustrates them with numerous cases in point, which is the best way I know of to make an article interesting.

We hope that Admiral Conolly will go ahead with his amplification and let us see the revised article at his earliest convenience.

Owing to a provision in the original Constitution of the Naval Institute Proceedings, it is specified that no guarantee of acceptance can be given on any article until the finished manuscript has been read and approved by our Board of Control. However, it is almost beyond my imagination to conceive of our present Board turning down an article of this calibre on this subject by as eminent an authority as Admiral Conolly.

Thanks for your kind words about the Institute. I can take only a small share of the credit, inasmuch as it is an "all hands" job. The real credit properly should

0248

September 10, 1952

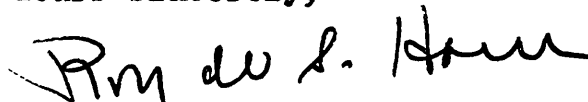
go to the splendid and progressive Board of Control which we have been getting this past few years. It is only through their backing, as well as the assistance of numerous high-ranking officers throughout the Navy, that we have been able to get those articles by the Japanese and the Germans and others in recent issues. Incidentally, you will observe that the September issue of the Readers Digest has reprinted the Yamato article from the Proceedings. In our own September issue, we have published what I think is an even more important scoop in the article about the Pearl Harbor strike, written by the Japanese officer who commanded and led it. And for your confidential information, we are already working on the rough manuscript of an article on the sinking of the Panay written especially for us by one of the few Japanese survivors who participated in the bombing.

Please give Admiral Conolly my best regards, and tell him that I hope we will continue to receive professional articles regularly from the members of the staff and students of the Naval War College. They should form the best possible source for important articles on what the Navy is thinking and planning. Proof of this is the fact that articles emanating from the Naval War College have either won First Prize or Honorable Mention in our annual prize essay contest for several years back.

I am returning herewith the copy of Admiral Conolly's address in case you need it for the hoped-for revision.

With best personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,



Roy de S. Horn  
Commander, U. S. Navy (ret)  
Managing Editor

0249

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1202 Times Star Building,  
Cincinnati 2, Ohio.  
September 29, 1952.

Mr. Harold A. Jones,  
627 Rowan Building,  
Los Angeles 13, California.

Dear Harold:

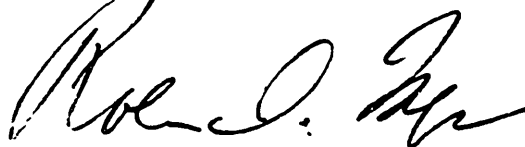
As you have seen in the papers, I have had several talks with General Eisenhower, and they have been very satisfactory to me. I am convinced he believes in the same general principles of government in which I believe. He is opposed to the constant increase of spending and power of big government. He is definitely in favor of cutting expenses, including those of the military. He is opposed to undertaking any activities which belong properly to the States.

On the other hand, Mr. Stevenson is a complete convert to the Truman philosophy. He is advised by left-wingers, if he is not a left-winger himself. If he is elected, I can see a further increase in government power and the socialization of most activities, to a point where perhaps we cannot turn back.

Therefore, I wish you would tell all of my supporters that I think they ought to get out and work for the ticket. It is obviously impossible for me to write each of them all over the country to this effect.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



RT:o

0250



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS  
COMMANDANT'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON

22 October 1952

Dear Ralph:

The blue cheese from the Langlois Cheese Makers arrived yesterday. We served it at luncheon today and it is one of the finest blue vein cheeses I have ever tasted. I want to express my sincere thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending it to my mess.

Please be sure to contact me the next time you are in Washington.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

LEMUEL C. SHEPHERD, JR.

Commodore Richard W. Bates, USN  
Naval War College  
Newport, R. I.

0251

Wear Commodore:

10-22-52 <sup>1900</sup> ~~cancel~~

I hate to bother you again but I don't know what to do. We had a fouled up Navy in 1941-42 (with all the reserves) but I can't begin to describe the mayhem aboard the Lake Champlains: the trouble, I believe, lies with the officers the majority of which are air personnel & they don't know the first thing about a ship the rest of them are Mustangs that have been buried on some shore duty got most of their careers & of course being LTJ, LCDR'S & CDR'S they demand the proper respect due their stations, which the most of them seem very well informed. I enjoy giving the proper respect due to a Naval Officer but God there isn't more than three or four of them on her. The moral of the crew including the officers is at the lowest point I have ever seen in my 16 yrs in the Navy. The ship is layed out since, we have a good CPO mess (the chiefs are all qualified & able but their hands are tied) my division (28 men) is one of the best div I have ever served with but the moral reaching the depths it has it won't be long before we will start having large <sup>numbers of</sup> AWOL sailors. We have about two officers qualified to stand OOD watches underway ~~over~~

0252

+ we are getting underway a week from lat  
+ could have in sum & it would not surprise  
me if we don't get hung up on this. Should  
like the Mr. Our navigator is a full CDR  
+ he is a nice fellow but he is a flyer  
+ a university of Texas man, we also  
have an Academy <sup>(since June of 1952)</sup> man for our Asst  
nav + I have never met a more over  
bearing, energetic full in my life, he is  
in every locker box including those officers.  
Our here I am doing all the ship off work +  
none that a CDR should, frankly I am getting  
a little worried about the ship but it's ride  
her to hell and back if I have to but I sure  
wish that I had a ship on the west coast.

We are still in Commission in Reserve under  
the 5th Naval District but are scheduled to  
go in full commission the 7th of Nov +  
report to Comdisant. Sir I hate to bother you  
& guess I can't take it but if you could do some  
thing to get me off I would appreciate it  
however I don't believe there is much any  
one can do or most of the ship Co would get off.  
Don't worry too much about this if you can't  
help as it's all over 20 & please don't change this  
letter around to pass it. Storvick

0253

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER ATLANTIC

NORFOLK 11, VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1 November 1952

Dear Rafe:

I appreciate your sending me the "poison pen" editorial about Main Brace and also Floberg's article. The wording of the former is so similar to one used by Drew Pearson in the only other really unfavorable comment I have seen that I am suspicious there may have been some "planting" by a certain organization, which we might suspect.

In general, I was very much pleased with Main Brace in spite of roughness in some spots, particularly weather. Also, I think our great effort for good and objective press coverage was amply rewarded.

Thanking you as always for your kind sentiments and with warmest regards, in which Lillian joins me,

Sincerely,



Rear Admiral R. W. Bates, USN (Ret.)  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

NATO

SACLANT

0254



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

19 November 1952

Dear Rafe:

Thank you very much for your help with the Koyanagi and the Heffernan articles. We had our monthly meeting yesterday and dealt only with the former.

The concensus of opinion was that the Koyanagi article must be condensed and rearranged before publication. The Editor of the "Proceedings" will contact Pineau and arrange for this revision. It was also agreed that an editorial note will be inserted under the Heading to the effect that the article was written several years after the event and is based on the author's memory of those events. I did not offer to have CAPT Rochefort write a companion piece, although I do think the Institute would be delighted to receive such an article. That is something that should be on Rochefort's own volition, and I did not think it necessary to put the bite on him. Incidentally, the reaction to articles published in the "Proceedings" by Japanese authors comes from all over the world and is all complimentary.

For some unknown reason, Heffernan's article was not up for vote, and I have no idea how the other members of the Board reacted to it. I have sent in my vote rejecting it. When the article comes up for discussion, I may need the information contained in your letter to support my position.

Admiral Conolly's article on "Principles of War" will be published in the January issue.

Best regards. I wonder if you are making your usual trip West during the Christmas season. If you do and see the Bearys, please give them my love.

Sincerely,

*Jim / FELT*

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

0255



J. JOSEPH SULLIVAN

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
ONE ELEVEN SUTTER STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE YUKON 6-5131

December 12, 1952

VIA AIR MAIL

Admiral Richard Bates, U. S. N.  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Admiral Bates:

Thank you for your recent note.

I would very much like to be invited to attend the Global Strategy course in May.

To respond to your questions, I am a commander, USNR (1635)--intelligence. As you know, I have been extremely busy in the last seven years and have had little time to do formal school work for the Navy; hence, as of July 1, 1952, I am classified as inactive. I do hope that my classification will not preclude me from attending Admiral Connelly's college.

Needless to say, much of my time has been allocated to the Navy. This year I served as chairman of the Navy Day celebration for San Francisco. Likewise, when Admiral McCormick and Admiral Beary were Commandants here, I attended to all the Navy's municipal problems, down to the granting of adequate parking space for Navy vehicles in the Civic Center of San Francisco.

I will enclose a few original letters, which you may return at your convenience, just to indicate to you that my statements are not gratuitous.

If it is necessary for me to become active, I am certain that Admiral Rodgers will do what he can to cause the reclassification. It is only now that I have time to formally allocate to the Navy--hence my desire to attend the Global Strategy course in May. One can never tell when I will be a fleet intelligence officer, serving under a tough but able chief of staff.

I hate to use the perpendicular pronoun or any self-serving enclosures; but notwithstanding my ripe old age of 42, I do think I would be the beneficiary of the Global Strategy course. Moreover, it would give me an opportunity to observe exactly what you are doing in charge of the battle evaluations of World War II.

0256

Admiral Richard Bates

-2-

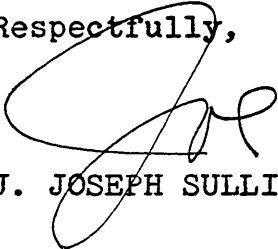
December 12, 1952

Incidentally, on October 7, at the home of Paul Bissinger, President of the Navy League, San Francisco Chapter, Mrs. Sullivan and I had the opportunity to meet Admiral Connelly again.

Also, there is a local television series "Victory at Sea," which I am certain you must have collaborated in preparing its showing. Both you and Admiral Connelly will revisit on the television screen many familiar battle scenes.

My very best to you.

Respectfully,



J. JOSEPH SULLIVAN

JJS:tt

Encls. -- letters from Admiral B. J. Rodgers  
Admiral McCormick  
Mr. Paul Bissinger

0257

VICE ADMIRAL JOHN DALE PRICE  
U. S. NAVY

12 December 1952

Dear Rafe:

Please excuse the delay in reply to your letter of 2 December. I just returned to my headquarters here last evening after a fifteen day absence.

Regarding my forecasts, here are more of my predictions since seeing you at the Army-Navy game. The Secretary of the Navy is to be Dave Ingalls and the Secretary of the Air Force, Harold Talbot. At the moment that is all the Navy dope I have to pass along.

Thank you for the letters you enclosed. I enjoyed them.

It was certainly good seeing you at the game and I appreciated your letter. I will give your greeting to Obie when I next see him.


With very best wishes,

Sincerely,

Commodore R. W. Bates (Ret)  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island



0258

Address Reply to   
Refer to No.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH NAVAL DISTRICT  
NORFOLK 11, VIRGINIA

31 December 1952

Commodore R. W. Bates, USN(Ret),  
Naval War College,  
Newport, R. I.

Dear Rafe:-

You may have wondered at the considerable delay in answering your letter of December 11th, but it has not been because I had forgotten you. We have been trying to run down the picture you desire and there were a number of places to be investigated. You know Currituck Sound is in a part of North Carolina, which for the last four years has been a part of the Sixth Naval District. For your information, on the first of January it again reverts to the Fifth Naval District, which is most proper considering the proximity of that area to Norfolk and Chesapeake Bay. Well, we tried to see what the Sixth Naval District people had in the way of pictures as well as looking through our own Fifth District files, and that took time.

I am sorry to say that we have not been able to find any photograph which covers the particular locality you have in mind. However, the matter had been taken up with the Commander Naval Air Bases of this District, Captain Fitzhugh Lee, who is also Commander of the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, and I am giving him a copy of this letter along with yours, with the hope and rather definite expectation that it may be possible to take a picture in the fairly near future. I don't think it necessary for you to write to them unless you fail to hear something before too long, as I believe Captain Lee and his people will be only too glad to make an aerial photograph when some routine work is being done in that locality.

I haven't been to War College since I was there under your tutelage ten years ago, but I am always interested in it and have heard a great deal about your continued work there. I am sure your current project, involving a critical analysis of the naval battles of World War II, is keeping you very busy, but remembering your capacity for work and production, I am not worried about the success you will achieve.

I am busy trying to pack up my personal and professional gear and affairs in view of my retirement on 1 January.

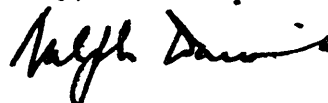
0259

I had hoped to leave like a husky, old gentleman of 62 at the end of January but the times caught up with me and I am forced to make it a physical affair a few weeks in advance of the statutory age limit. I don't feel too badly physically and hope to be good for years to come and to enjoy retired life as I have always advised my old friends.

Dorothy is fairly well and is looking forward to our getting in a little house we have built out Virginia Beach way.

She joins me in best regards and all good wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ralph Davis".

R. O. Davis,  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy.

0260

Norfolk Va

Stewart Ave

Sept 15 19 13

Frederick Apts

M D Stout

O-14



Admiral R Bates  
U.S. Naval War College  
Newport Ri.

0261

# Why We Lost: Subs Were Sent To Fight With Faulty Torpedoes

## U. S. Skipper Went Close Into Shore Against Jap Ship To Send Proof to Washington Experts

This is the second chapter in the thrilling story "Submarine!" which is a Navy submariner's own account of the underseas war against the Japanese. It is a story few men survived to tell. "Submarine!" is published by Henry Holt & Co.

Without exaggeration, the effectiveness of our submarine force was approximately 15% of what it should have been in the early days of the war. In the Asiatic Fleet, until its final dissolution, the percentage of failure was nearly 100%.

There is no question in the mind of any submariner today that if the submarines of that ill-fated fleet had had the percentage of successes that was achieved later, the outcome of the battles of Corregidor and the Java Sea, and possibly the whole Asiatic Pacific campaign, might have been much different.

It was not long before submariners knew the answer. Faulty torpedoes! Our submarines were being sent to war with defective weapons.

Time after time, in the early days of the war, our submarine skippers reported that their torpedoes were not running where they were aimed; were not exploding when they got there; were going off impotently before they arrived; or were running in circles, with danger to the firing ship.

### Desk-Bound Experts

Letter after letter was sent to the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance and to the Naval Torpedo Station at Newport, R. I., pleading that something be done.

But the desk-bound moguls in Washington and Newport, from their deep knowledge and great experience, were sure they knew the answer. Fire-control errors in the excitement of combat, or sheer lack of competent technique could only be responsible for the misses.

The story of defective torpedoes is a sordid one, and it is part of the tale of the Seawolf.

Her battle with defective torpedoes began on March 31 and April 1, 1942, when she engaged three Japanese cruisers off Christmas Island. For two days her skipper, Lieut. Commander Frederick B. Warder, remained in the area, almost the entire time under search and attack, and delivered three deliberate, well-planned torpedo attacks upon three different Japanese cruisers.

### A Classic Understatement

Already furious, as were all his fellows, with unexplainable torpedo "misses," skipper Freddie Warder made all his attacks from such a vantage point that failure to hit was nearly as impossible as it was inexcusable.

A high-ranking Japanese naval officer was asked about this engagement after the war. His reply, as translated, was a classic understatement: "We realized that you were experimenting a little difficulty with your torpedoes." So Warder redoubled his efforts to make his torpedoes pay off.

One thought was that they might be running too deep.

If the torpedoes ran deeper than set, they might easily pass harmlessly beneath the target. Conversely, if the patent magnetic exploder were too sensitive, the tor-

pedo might "premature"—that is, go off before reaching the target.

### They Seek Proof

On Nov. 3, 1942, Seawolf has penetrated far into Davao Gulf, in Mindanao, in her search for enemy shipping.

Warder and company have reasoned that their torpedoes are passing under the targets without exploding, and have resolved to prove it.

For the test, they want an anchored or moored ship in a harbor, where torpedoes fired from seaward will go off upon hitting the shore after passing the target.

For a clincher, Warder has taken two types of torpedoes on this patrol—the Mark XIV, recently put in service, and the obsolete Mark X. Maybe, he thinks, a little comparative performance data might be useful.

At last Warder and his Seawolves sight what they seek: Sagami Maru, an 8000-ton transport lying at anchor in Talomo Bay, a small harbor.

With Fred Warder at the periscope and Bill Deragon, executive officer, backing him up, Seawolf creeps into position, running silent.

### Simplest Shot in the Book

Finally, Seawolf is in position. Range, 1400 yards. Target speed, zero. Current, zero, indicated by Sagami Maru's anchor chain which is hanging straight up and down.

Skipper Warder is determined to eliminate all possible points of error or argument. He will fire his torpedoes with the "straight bow shot"—the simplest one.

"Set depth 18 feet!" With the target's estimated draft of about 20 feet, and with allowance for the torpedo to run only slightly deeper than set, this fish should pass right beneath the dazzle-painted Sagami Maru and explode magnetically under her keel.

The periscope comes up.

"FIRE ONE!"

"If that fish works the way it's supposed to," growls the skipper, "this ship is a goner. It should break him right in half!"

### "We've Got Proof"

Suddenly Warder whips the camera toward the periscope eyepiece, feverishly fits it into place. Almost simultaneously the roar of a torpedo explosion fills the conning tower, and a moment later the sounds of hoarse cheering wells up from the control room. "We've hit him! A hit with the first shot!"

The skipper furiously quells the incipient jubilation. "Pipe down! That was not a hit! Fish passed under point of aim and exploded on the beach!"

The skipper's voice cuts through the gloom. "That torpedo was a Mark XIV. Deragon, see that the depth we set on that fish is logged and witnessed, and that the serial number and type are noted. This time we've got proof of what happened. This picture will show the torpedo track to the target and explosion beyond it."

A smile plays around the corners of Warder's mouth. "For the next torpedo, set depth eight feet and have that witnessed and logged also!"

### But No Damage

"FIRE TWO!" The cross hair of the periscope exactly bisects the single vertical stack of the target.

Again the wait for the explosion, but this time it is not so long. As the impact of the explosion reaches the submarine, the skipper grins.

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"FIRE TWO!" The cross hair of the periscope exactly bisects the single vertical stack of the target.

Again the wait for the explosion, but this time it is not so long. As the impact of the explosion reaches the submarine, the skipper grins and motions to Deragon to take the 'scope for a look. "I think we really did hit him that time, Bill."

Through the tiny periscope eye can be seen a cloud of spray and mud thrown into the air.

The ship rolls far over toward them, approximately 30 degrees, and immediately returns to an even keel.

Stare as they may, Seawolf's skipper and exec must admit that there is no conclusive evidence of damage. Despite an obvious hit and the subsequent wild rolling, the target has suffered no appreciable increase in draft.

#### Premature Explosion

"How long did that torpedo run?" Warder suddenly asks.

Bill Deragon looks at his stop watch. "Forty-four and a half seconds, captain." The two men look at each other thoughtfully.

Warder speaks first. "Let's see, now. Torpedo run . . . torpedo speed . . . Why, the earliest that fish could have got there is 45 seconds, probably a little longer! It must have gone off just before hitting the target!"

And so a few moments later fish No. 3 goes on its way, set even closer to the surface. Again the torpedo track is observed to run straight to the target, but this time there is no explosion whatsoever. Sound hears the torpedo running perfectly normally long after the time it should have hit the target.

"Stand FOUR! . . . FIRE FOUR!"

#### The Ship Wakes Up

Again nothing. Seawolf has expended all her bow tubes, and Sagami Maru still rides at anchor in Talomo Bay—unharmcd. And now the submarine has drawn upon herself the quite understandable wrath of Sagami. Two large guns on the Jap's bow and stern have been manned and are lobbing shells at Seawolf's periscope.

But Warder has no thought of quitting with his target still afloat. The Mark XIV torpedoes have failed. Now he will try the old Mark X fish.

Working against time, checking and reloading torpedoes in the four bow tubes, the men of the Seawolf silently perform a miracle of effort, in spite of a room temperature hovering around the 120-degree mark.